



Fall 2019

TALKING TIMES

That All May Read

**RHODE ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY
FOR THE BLIND & PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED
Talking Books Library**

Office of Library and Information Services

website: www.olis.ri.gov/tbl Email: talking.books@olis.ri.gov

Phone: 401-574-9310 TTY 711

"No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting." Lady Mary Wortley Montagu

Talking Books Library Member Survey

Inside this issue of the Talking Times Newsletter, you will find the Talking Books Library member survey. This survey provides important feedback on our services and lets us know how well we are meeting your needs. The survey is anonymous and just 12 short questions.

Please return your completed survey by January 16, 2020. TBL members or caregivers on behalf of members may complete the survey online at <https://tinyurl.com/SurveyTBL>. To submit the paper version, fold and mail the survey to the return address postage free or fax the survey to 401-574-9320. You may also call 401-574-9310 to complete the survey by phone. TBL staff are available to provide assistance to callers Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm (closed weekends and major holidays).

2020 Census

Libraries are advocating for a fair and accurate count to ensure that every person in the state is counted in Census 2020, including those who are blind, visually impaired and disabled. Next year's census data will be used to determine how more than \$675 billion in federal funds will be distributed to support states, counties and local communities. Rhode Island alone receives nearly \$4 billion annually in federal funds for services such as Medicare, highway repair, education and more. Census figures are used to fund or make policy decisions on housing, education, transportation, employment, healthcare and public policy. Census data also determines the number of members each state has in the United States House of Representatives and provides the basis for redistricting. The 2020 Census is the first census that will be conducted primarily online, although households will still have the option of responding by mail or phone. It will also be fully accessible, utilizing large print, braille, Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) technology and non-English instruments and materials.

Marrakesh Treaty Becomes a Reality

According to the World Blind Union (WBU), more than 90 percent of the world's published materials cannot be read by people who are blind or have a print disability. The Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or otherwise Print Disabled, went into effect in the United States on May 9, 2019, and offers an exception to domestic copyright law for eligible people with disabilities. This allows individuals and organizations to create and distribute accessible versions of books and other materials

without first having to ask permission from publishers. The Treaty requires “member nations to modify their national copyright law to allow for production of accessible materials for people with disabilities and establish rules for the exchange of accessible materials with other member nations.” To learn more about the Marrakesh Treaty go to <https://tinyurl.com/y5pd5cva>.

Reading Across Rhode Island (RARI)

The Reading Across Rhode Island, One Book, One State community read program for 2020 encourages everyone to read the **Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore** by Elizabeth Rush (DB92695). Sixteen essays highlighting coastal communities facing the ecological impact of rising sea levels. Includes communities in Maine, Rhode Island, Florida, New York, Louisiana, Oregon, and California. Discussions focus on climate change, housing development, disaster recovery, academic research, and advocacy efforts. This is the 18th year of the program sponsored by the Rhode Island Center for the Book, a statewide organization devoted to promoting personal and community enrichment. RARI will kick off on Sunday, February 26, 2020 from 2 – 4 pm at Save the Bay, 100 Save The Bay Drive, Providence, R.I. 02905. For more information and events schedule, go to <https://ribook.org/rari/>.

Holiday Reading Selections

The Christmasaurus by Tom Fletcher (DB92512)

Young William has wished for a dinosaur every Christmas. When Santa accidentally gives William the real Christmasaurus instead of a stuffed

replica, it's the best Christmas ever--until an evil man known as the Hunter decides a dinosaur would be the perfect addition to his collection. Commercial audiobook. 2016. For grades 3-6.

Fields Where They Lay: A Junior Bender Holiday Mystery

by Timothy Hallinan (DB95189)

Three days before Christmas, Junior Bender--divorced father and burglar extraordinaire--finds himself stuck inside the Edgerton Mall. The mall's murderous Russian mobster owner hired Junior to solve the shoplifting problem. But Junior's surveillance operation doesn't go well: as Christmas Eve approaches, two people are dead. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2016. Mystery, Detective.

A High Sierra Christmas by William Johnstone (DB93389)

Smoke Jensen and his children are on their way to Reno for the holidays. To save time, they follow the same path that brought the legendary Donner party to a tragic end. An unexpected blizzard forces the Jensens to do what it takes to survive. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. Bestseller. Westerns. 2018.

Merry and Bright by Debbie Macomber (DB89198)

Merry Smith is too busy with her family, holiday preparations, and a demanding boss to be thinking about dating. Her mother takes the decision out of her hands by setting her up with an online dating service--but her perfect match is someone she never expected. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017. Romance.

The White Christmas Inn by Colleen Wright (DB92951)

When a snowstorm hits a New England inn, the stranded guests must spend Christmas together. Owners Jeanne and Tim are struggling with their marriage and the inn. The various guests have their own problems, and their lives intertwine over the holiday. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2018. Family Story.

Winter Solstice by Elin Hilderbrand (DB89201)

Kelly Quinn is thrilled to have his whole family together at the Winter Street Inn for the holidays, including Bart, home safe from Afghanistan. However, it wouldn't be a Quinn family gathering if everything went smoothly. Sequel to Winter Storms (DB 85810). Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2017. Family Story.

Jumpstarting Computer Science Interest for Kids who Are Blind
by Allison Linn (excerpted)

In an IT classroom at New College Worcester in the United Kingdom, students are learning to write computer code. But instead of poking at tablet screens or typing into laptops, these students are taking out brightly colored plastic pods, connecting them together with thick white wires and then adjusting the pod's buttons and knobs. These physical components will be used to create computer programs that can tell stories, make music and even crack jokes. The students at New College Worcester are all blind or with low-vision, and are part of a group of students across the UK who have spent the previous school year beta testing Project Torino, a research project that led to the development of a new product called Code Jumper. It's a physical

programming language that is designed to be inclusive of children with all ranges of vision. Microsoft has announced plans to transfer the research and technology behind Code Jumper to the American Printing House for the Blind (APH), based in Louisville, Kentucky.

Over the next five years, APH plans to offer Code Jumper and related curriculum to students throughout the world, with a target audience of students who are 7 to 11 years old. “The nonprofit’s leaders say the goal isn’t just to introduce kids to coding – it’s also to give them the underlying skills that can lead to a career in computer science. Larry Skutchan, APH’s technology director, said the fact that it’s immediately accessible for kids with no prior computing experience is important. In the past, he said, kids who are blind or with low vision and wanted to get into coding had to first learn other computing skills, such as how to type and use a screen reader. That made it harder to get started at a young age – and potentially closed the door to a field that could have provided a career for them. APH plans to release Code Jumper first in the US, UK, Canada and Australia, and then to distribute it throughout the world. To read the full article, go to <https://tinyurl.com/qnext20>.

Lego Piloting Audio and Braille Building Instructions

Lego has announced a new accessibility initiative that will make building instructions for 4 kits (Classic Lego, Lego City, Lego Friends and Lego Movie 2) available as braille or text for voice readers, in order to reach builders with blindness and vision impairment. The service is currently available for free through the Lego Audio Instructions site at <https://tinyurl.com/yxzfyh6c>.

2019 Talking Books Library Member Survey

The Talking Books Library (TBL) conducts a member survey at least once every three years to establish priorities and identify areas for service improvements. The survey results will enable us to better serve the needs of TBL members. We will also use your input in national conversations about TBL service. Member input is very important to us, so please complete a survey. The survey is anonymous and just 12 short questions.

Please submit your completed survey by January 16, 2020.

TBL members or caregivers on behalf of members may complete the survey online at <https://tinyurl.com/SurveyTBL>, submit the survey postage free via U.S mail or fax the survey to 401-574-9320. You may also call 401-574-9310 to complete the survey by phone. TBL staff are available to provide assistance to callers Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm (closed weekends and major holidays).

1. How did you hear about this service?

- Care Giver/Family/Friend
- Consumer Support Group
- Event/Expo
- IN-SIGHT
- Internet/Social Media
- NLS
- Public Library
- Radio Ad
- School
- TV Ad
- RI Dept. of Healthy Aging
- RI State Services for the Blind (SBVI)?
- Veterans Affairs/Defense Health Agency
- Vocational Rehabilitation Center
- Other Health Agency

2. How do you prefer to communicate with TBL staff?

mail phone email fax

3. Do you have access to a computer and the Internet?

Yes No

4. Do you use BARD to download books?

Yes No

5. What services do you use on the TBL website?

BARD Catalog Newsletters

Reading Lists TBL Blog Other None

6. What device(s) do you prefer to use to listen to TBL audiobooks and magazines?

Digital talking book machine (DTBM) Victor Reader Stream

iOS device (Apple iPhone, iPod, or iPad)

Android devices (tablets, smart phones)

Other _____

7. Are your phone calls and emails returned in a timely manner?

Always Sometimes Never

8. How do you rate the helpfulness and courteousness of TBL staff?

Excellent Good Neutral Fair Poor

9. Are your needs met by TBL staff?

Yes No

If No, what needs improvement _____

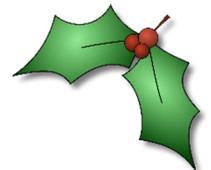
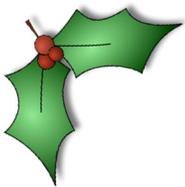
10. Do you read or listen to the Talking Times Newsletter?

Yes No

11. What is your age?

Under 18 18-29 30-50 51-64 65-79
 80-99 100+

12. Do you have any additional comments?



Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey

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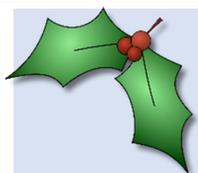
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OLIS 2nd Floor
ONE CAPITOL HILL
PROVIDENCE, RI 02908-5803**

Braille Calendars

Each year, the American Action Fund (AAF) produces and distributes over 12,000 FREE compact and useful Braille calendars to blind and deaf-blind individuals and promotes the use of Braille in every facet of a blind person's life. The goal is to achieve the most efficient means to access information or to perform a task. To learn more about AAF you can go to their website at <https://www.actionfund.org/about-aaf>. Calendars can be ordered from calendars@actionfund.org or by faxing a request to (818) 343-3219.

Tax Deductible Donations

Every gift to the RI Talking Books Library benefits all members of the program. Contributions allow us to fund projects such as the RI Collection that are not covered in the general budget. Donations are accepted in memory of a loved one, family member or to honor an individual. If you wish to remain anonymous, please let us know in an accompanying note. To make a donation, send check or money order payable to the RI Talking Books Library and mail to the RI Office of Library & Information Services, Talking Books Library, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Your donations are greatly appreciated and are used solely for the purchase of materials for the Talking Books Library.



Happy Holidays!

With the holiday season fast approaching, the Talking Books Library staff want to wish you and yours a happy holiday season.

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Matter
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Blind***

TBL

Closings and Holidays

Wednesday, December 25, 2019, Christmas Day
Wednesday, January 1, 2020, New Year's Day



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